

Message Text

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44-46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

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USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 DLOS-07 COA-02 ACDA-19 INT-08

OMB-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 FEA-02 SCI-06

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FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT:GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS: NORTHERN GREEK PRESS
REACTION TO ANDROUTSOPOULOS PRESS BRIEFING

REF: ATHENS 4152

1. PM ANDROUTSOPOULOS' PRESS BRIEFING, AND ADMIRAL
ARAPAKIS' MESSAGE TO NAVY TO INAUGURATE NAVY WEEK
CROWDED ALL OTHER EVENTS INCLUDING NIXON VISIT TO USSR, OFF
FRONT PAGES IN NORTHERN GREEK PRESS OVER WEEKEND.

2. BANNER HEADLINES ON ANDROUTSOPOULOS BRIEFING READ
"ANKARA PROVOKING DISPUTE, FEEDING IT WITH THREATS:
ONLY ON BASIS OF GENEVA TREATY WILL GREECE ACCEPT
ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTINENTAL SHELF" (MAKEDONIA):
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VORRAS HEADLINE RAN "GREECE DENOUNCES ATTITUDE OF TURKEY:

ATHENS DEVOTED TO PEACEFUL MEANS". ARAPAKIS
STATEMENT COVERED BY "AEGEAN IS VITAL SPACE OF
GREECE: OUR NAVY WILL FIRMLY DEFEND OUR SOVEREIGN
RIGHTS" (VORRAS), AND "DYNAMIC PRESENCE OF OUR
NAVY IS GUARANTEE OF SECURITY: POSITION OF GREECE
REMAINS FIRM" (MAKEDONIA).

3. EDITORIAL REACTION CONSISTED OF TWO ARTICLES BY VORRAS EDITORS
KYROU AND NICOLAOS MERTZOS.
FORMER, IN "OUR OPINION" COLUMN JUNE 29,
SAYS ECEVIT PROVED HE WAS "MEDIocre POLITICIAN"
BY HIS "THEATRICAL INTERVIEW" AT BRUSSELS AIRPORT
IN WHICH HE TRIED TO PROVE THAT "ROBBERY AND
IMPERIALISM ARE LEGAL RIGHT". IF TURKS ATTEMPT
TO CARRY OUT SUMMER OIL EXPLORATION IN AEGEAN,
HE WRITES, THEY WILL FIND THAT "GREEK
PEOPLE AND LEADERSHIP ARE FIRMLY DETERMINED TO
RESIST SUCH ROBBERS". ON MINORITY QUESTION, HE CONTRASTS
LOT OF MOSLEMS IN THRACE ("THRIVING AND HOARDING GOLD")
WITH THAT OF GREEKS IN CONSTANTINOPLE, IMVROS AND TENEDOS
WHO HAVE "VANISHED --- OUSTED AFTER BEING ROBBED". IF
FEW REMAINING ALSO VANISH, WARNS KYROU, "THEN ALL MOSLEMS
OF THRACE WILL DISAPPEAR TOO" EXCEPT FOR THOSE WHO
AGREE TO REMAIN AS "GREEK MOSLEMS". UNLESS TURKEY GIVES
UP "IMPERIALISTIC CLAIM AGAINST GREECE" IT WILL LOSE
EASTERN THRACE, HE CONCLUDES, WHICH WOULD BE SALUTARY DEVELOPMENT
SINCE STRAITS WOULD THEN BE CONTROLLED BY TWO POWERS, RATHER
THAN ONE "SMALL AND MALICIOUS COUNTRY, WHICH HAS DISTINGUISHED
ITSELF ONLY IN OPIUM PLANTING".

4. IN SIMILAR VEIN, CO-EDITOR MERTZOS IN HIS POLITICAL
COMMENTARY JUNE 30 ACCUSED PM ECEVIT OF "TWISTING" TREATY
OF LAUSANNE BY DEMANDING THAT "ALL GREEK RIGHTS BE TURNED
INTO CONCESSIONS TO THE TURKS", AND THEN PROPOSING THAT
"SPECIAL POLITICAL ORGANS OF HIS OWN INSPIRATION" CONSIDER
ISSUES OF MINORITIES, AEGEAN AND CYPRUS. AFTER PM ANDROUT-
SOPOULOS HAD EXPLICITLY REJECTED THESE "OUTRAGEOUS PROPOSALS",
ECEVIT PROCEEDED TO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE TO CHARGE THAT
"GREECE HAD REJECTED HIS PROPOSAL FOR APPEASEMENT", SAYS
MERTZOS. BUT, HE QUESTIONS, IF PEACE IS TO BE ATTAINED
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ONLY BY "SUCCUMMING TO THE INVADER, WHY HAVE ARMED FORCES".
ONCE HAVING TAKEN A DECISION TO "DEFEND ITS SOVEREIGNTY
AS FAR AS WAR IMPOSED BY AND INVADER" A NATION SHOULD NONE-
THELESS DO ITS UTMOST TO "EXPLAIN ITS POSITION WITH CLARITY
AND PURSUASION TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND PUBLIC MEDIA, AND
STRENGTHEN ITS INTERNAL FRONT ON A NATIONAL LEVEL". MERTZOS
CONCLUDES THAT "RELATIONS WITH TURKEY HAVE ENTERED A NEW,
AND NOW OFFICIAL, PHASE OF TENSION".

BRENMAN

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